

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

1-19 (Canceled)

20. (New) A method for managing scan-based input, comprising:
receiving a plurality of barcodes at a server from a customer;
resolving each of the plurality of barcodes into a corresponding plurality of product identifiers, said plurality of product identifiers stored in a product database in communication with said server;
creating a catalog including the plurality of barcodes and a corresponding plurality of product descriptions arranged such that each barcode of the plurality of barcodes is located in proximity of a product description of the plurality of product descriptions which it identifies;
sending the catalog to the customer;
receiving a selection of a first product in response to a barcode of said plurality of barcodes in the catalog being scanned by the customer;
determining whether said first product is available by querying said product database;
if it is determined that said first product is not available by querying said product database, determining whether a substitute product is indicated in a substitute table;
if said first product is determined not to have a substitute indicated in the substitute table, searching for at least one product substitute in the product database by comparing attributes of the first product to attributes of products in the product database;
if at least one product substitute is found in the product database, adding the at least one product substitute to the substitute table and sending the customer a recommendation of the at least one product substitute;
receiving approval from the customer in response to the recommendation of a product substitute; and
in response to the approval, saving the approved substitute product in a shopping cart of the customer.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein sending the customer catalog to the customer comprises sending the customer a markup language file including the catalog.

22. (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising:
calculating a degree of closeness between the at least one product substitute and the first product; and
storing the degree of closeness in the substitute table.

23. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein a product is not available is if it is out of stock.

24. (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising:
determining whether a particular barcode of the plurality of barcodes is stored in said product database;
if the particular barcode is not stored in said product database, querying at least one code registry to locate a particular product substitute;
sending the customer a recommendation of the particular product substitute;
receiving approval from the customer in response to the recommendation of the particular product substitute; and
in response to the approval from the customer in response to the recommendation of the particular product substitute, resolving the particular barcode into a product identifier of the particular product substitute.

25. (New) A computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method for facilitating purchases, comprising:
receiving a plurality of barcodes at a server from a customer;
resolving each of the plurality of barcodes into a corresponding plurality of product identifiers, said plurality of product identifiers stored in a product database in communication with said server;

creating a catalog including the plurality of barcodes and a corresponding plurality of product descriptions arranged such that each barcode of the plurality of barcodes is located in proximity of a product description of the plurality of product descriptions which it identifies;

sending the catalog to the customer;

receiving a selection of a first product in response to a barcode of said plurality of barcodes in the catalog being scanned by the customer;

determining whether said first product is available by querying said product database;

if it is determined that said first product is not available by querying said product database, determining whether a substitute product is indicated in a substitute table;

if said first product is determined not to have a substitute indicated in the substitute table, searching for at least one product substitute in the product database by comparing attributes of the first product to attributes of products in the product database;

if at least one product substitute is found in the product database, adding the at least one product substitute to the substitute table and sending the customer a recommendation of the at least one product substitute;

receiving approval from the customer in response to the recommendation of a product substitute; and

in response to the approval, saving the approved substitute product in a shopping cart of the customer.

26. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein sending the customer catalog to the customer comprises sending the customer a markup language file including the catalog.

27. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 25, the method further comprising:

calculating a degree of closeness between the at least one product substitute and the first product; and

storing the degree of closeness in the substitute table.

28. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 25, wherein a product is not available is if it is out of stock.

29. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 25, the method further comprising:

determining whether a particular barcode of the plurality of barcodes is stored in said product database;

if the particular barcode is not stored in said product database, querying at least one code registry to locate a particular product substitute;

sending the customer a recommendation of the particular product substitute;

receiving approval from the customer in response to the recommendation of the particular product substitute; and

in response to the approval from the customer in response to the recommendation of the particular product substitute, resolving the particular barcode into a product identifier of the particular product substitute.

30. (New) A system for managing scan-based input, comprising:

a product database;

a memory storing a substitute table;

a network interface;

a processor in communication with the product database, the memory, and the network interface, wherein the processor:

receives a plurality of barcodes from a customer;

resolves each of the plurality of barcodes into a corresponding plurality of product identifiers, said plurality of product identifiers stored in the product database;

creates a catalog including the plurality of barcodes and a corresponding plurality of product descriptions arranged such that each barcode of the plurality of barcodes is located in proximity of a product description of the plurality of product descriptions which it identifies;

sends the catalog to the customer;

receives a selection of a first product in response to a barcode of said plurality of barcodes in the catalog being scanned by the customer;

determines whether said first product is available by querying said product database;
if it is determined that said first product is not available by querying said product database, determines whether a substitute product is indicated in a substitute table;

if said first product is determined not to have a substitute indicated in the substitute table, searches for at least one product substitute in the product database by comparing attributes of the first product to attributes of products in the product database;

if at least one product substitute is found in the product database, adds the at least one product substitute to the substitute table and sends the customer a recommendation of the at least one product substitute;

receives approval from the customer in response to the recommendation of a product substitute; and

in response to the approval, saves the approved substitute product in a shopping cart of the customer.

31. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein sending the customer catalog to the customer comprises sending the customer a markup language file including the catalog.

32. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein the processor further:
calculates a degree of closeness between the at least one product substitute and the first product; and
stores the degree of closeness in the substitute table.

33. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein a product is not available is if it is out of stock.

34. (New) The system of claim 30, wherein the processor further:
determines whether a particular barcode of the plurality of barcodes is stored in said product database;
if the particular barcode is not stored in said product database, queries at least one code registry to locate a particular product substitute;
sends the customer a recommendation of the particular product substitute;

receives approval from the customer in response to the recommendation of the particular product substitute; and

in response to the approval from the customer in response to the recommendation of the particular product substitute, resolves the particular barcode into a product identifier of the particular product substitute.